in the Financial Express on 15th July, 1994;

(b) whether it is also a fact that none of Committees 373 recommendations have so far been implemented except certain unproductive/piecemeal suggestions; and

(c) if so, by when Government are likely to examine/implement fare panel's Report, with reasons for the inordinate delay in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) The Railway Fare & Freight Committee have made 373 recommendations on fare and freight structure, classification of commodities, concessions for travel, minimum distance for freight charges, rationalisations, of freight traffic etc. Out of these 373 recommendations important recommendations regarding (i) levy of uniform reservation fee (ii) reduction in minimum distance for freight charge (iii) reduction in the number of classifications of commodities (iv) enhancement of the rebate for movement of damageable commodities in open wagons; and (v) reduction in the distance block for freight charge beyond 2400 kms from 50 km to 25 km have been accepted with suitable modifications and implemented while framing the Railway Budget 1994-95. There is no delay in examination and implementation of the recommendation of the report as action has already been taken as above.

Purchase of Railway wagons

2238. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are reducing its purchase of railway wagons in West Bengal and increasing its purchase of imported wagons:

(b) what is the rationale for this policy interms of performance and price;

(c) how much unemployment this policy create in the Indian wagon industry; and

(d) what will be the outflow of foreign exchange on this account?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir. The purchase of wagons has reduced during 1994-95 due to reduction in the requirement of wagons. Railways have not imported any wagons against their Rolling Stock Programme.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Floating of Eurobonds

2239. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI AAS MOHAMMAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to float Eurobonds to reduce the interest liability;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent Government would be able to raise money?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) There is no proposal with the Government at present for raising any money through issue of Eurobonds.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Introduction of Palace on wheels type trains

2240. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4827 given in the

Rajya Sabha on the 27th April, 1994 and state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduced Palace on Wheel's type tourist trains on some routes;

(b) if so, the details of the routes on which such type of trains are to be introduced;

(c) whether the private sector has also been offered to run some of the rountes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent the growth of foreign tourists is to be increased due to the introduction of new routes?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (e) It has been decided to introduce 'Palace on Wheels' type tourist train services on the following tourist circuits;

(i) Delhi - Jaipur-Agra-Gwalior-Jhansi (Khajuraho)- Varanasi-Lucnow-Delhi.

(ii) Bombay - Aurangabad (Ajaanta/Ellora) - Nanded - Secunderabad- Hyderabad - Pune.Bombay.

(iii) Calcutta - Gaya (Rajgir/Nalanda) - Varanasi (Sarnath) - Gorakhpur (Lumbini/Kushinagar) Bhubaneswar- Puri- Calcutta.

(iv) Goa (Madgaon) - Mangalore-Mysore (Belur/Halebid) - Hospet (Hampi) -Bangalore-Goa (Madgaon).

(v) Bangalore- Mysore- Madras-Kodaikanal Road-Kanniya Kumari-Trivandrum-Cochin - Mettupalayam-(Ooty)-Bangalore.

(vi) Delhi - Jaipur - Jodhpur - Jaisalmer- Sawai Madhopur- Bharatpur-Agra-Delhi.

(vii) Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur-Ahmedabad-Veraval-Palitana-Delhi.

(viii) Madras-Pondicherry-Nagore-Karaikal-Velankini - Tiruchchirapalli- Madurai-Rameswaram - Thanjavur-Chidambaram-Madras.

While global bids have been invited from public and private sectors for the ownership, marketing and management of the tourist trains listed at S. Nos. (i) —(v), on the remaining circuits listed at S. Nos. (vi)— (viii) it has been decided to launch the tourist trains services in collaboration with the Tourism Development Corporations of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Global bids were invited upto 25th July, 1994, for attracting investment in tourist train infrasructure. The initial response to the scheme has been encouraging. The measure has been planned to provide the infrastructural support for the implementation of the 'Action Plan' of the Ministry of Tourism to attract 5 million tourists by 1996-97.

Conversion of Railway track from Rongia to Murkongselek

2241. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to undertake conversion of metre-gauge tracks into Broad-gauge from Rongia to Murkongselek Railway Station of N.F. Railways via Rangapara North; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir .

(b) This work is planned as a Ninth Five Year Plan project.

Non-payment of Salaries to Casual Labourers at Tiruchirapalli

2242. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-payment of salary to 11 (eleven) casual labourers employed in the Southern Railway Employees (Non-Statutory Recognised) Canteen being run incide the Divisional